

Hymn of the Month is a new worship-focused series at Salem Hellers. Worship is the most important thing we do; as part of our efforts to enrich and deepen our worship, each month we will focus on one of the less familiar or more recently composed songs from *Hymns of Grace* that we hope will be appreciated and loved by our congregation. We will explore different ways to introduce and incorporate these songs throughout the month; we want to help you become comfortable with them. May we grow together in faith as we learn these theologically rich hymns and join our voices in corporate worship.

Listen to a recording of this month's hymn on our new website at www.salemhellers.com. Look for *Hymn of the Month* in the Worship tab menu and click on "visit the download page".



Hymn of the Month

May 2025



O Church, Arise
#353 Hymns of Grace

1

O church, arise and put your armor on;
Hear the call of Christ our captain;
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold whose battle cry is "Love!"
Reaching out to those in darkness.

2

Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on every side,
We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have the prize for which He died –
An inheritance of nations.

3

Come, see the cross where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him.

4

So Spirit, come, put strength in every stride,
Give grace for every hurdle,
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When, with Christ, we stand in glory.

The Music: *O Church, Arise* bears a musical resemblance to the more well-known Getty & Townend hymn, *In Christ Alone*. Both are written with the same meter, and they share a similar melodic form.

The Text is a theological call to arms to fulfill the mission God has given His church: to unite as we take up the cross of Christ, spread the gospel message, and fight the good fight of faith. The lyrics summarize and draw from metaphors found in Ephesians and Hebrews:

Ephesians 6:11-17

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the power of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Hebrew 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

O Church, Arise is well-suited for corporate worship; its rally cry to the church echoes two other great hymns of the faith included in our hymnal: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* and *The Church's One Foundation*. The focus of the text is "we", not "I", and as we sing together we are affirming our unity in Christ as we join together to fulfill the Great Commission.